

IN HOT WATER.

The World Mutual Benefit Association of West Virginia

ISSUED BY POLICY HOLDERS

To Recover Death Benefits Aggregating \$1,500, Overdue.

SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS MADE

AFFECTING THE HONESTY OF THE OFFICIALS OF THE ASSOCIATION. ATTACHMENT PROCEEDINGS TAKEN YESTERDAY AFTERNOON BY MRS. MARY ALTMAYER—THE POSTAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATING THE CONCERN—ITS MAIL HAS BEEN HELD BACK FOR THE PAST WEEK OR TEN DAYS, PENDING INSPECTOR HOOTEN'S REPORT—SECRETARY BRIGHT GIVES HIS SIDE OF THE DIFFICULTY AND EXPRESSES HOPE THAT THE LAW WILL NOT FORCE A DISASTER.

The World Mutual Benefit Association, a West Virginia corporation, with its principal office in Wheeling, which happens to be located in the Peabody building, 1126 and 1128 Market street, is in hot water that has approached the point of boiling over.

Yesterday afternoon, Mrs. Mary Altmeyer, widow of the late P. J. Altmeyer, a prominent citizen and business man of the South Side, who died early in the summer, instituted proceedings of attachment against the officers of the association, in an effort to collect the face value of a policy issued to Mr. Altmeyer some time ago, and which was payable to his wife on his death, the amount being \$1,000. According to the declaration in the case, filed in the office of Circuit Court Clerk Henning, by Attorney W. P. Robinson, yesterday, the proofs of loss were filed with the company on June 24, but as a provision of the policy is that the company has ninety days of grace before paying the insurance, no legal steps were taken to collect during that period. On Saturday of last week, the 26th, a demand for the payment of the money was made, but the officers declined to pay at that time, hence the proceedings instituted yesterday afternoon. The attachment, which was served on Secretary W. M. Bright late in the afternoon, also carries with it a garnishee on the money now in the hands of the association or which will come into its hands upon the lifting of the postoffice embargo recently laid upon the concern. The declaration recites that this money is in the hands of the following officers:

President—Frank Chatfield.
Secretary—W. M. Bright.
Treasurer—J. G. Barlett.
Assistant Secretary—Annie Elliott.
The Altmeyer declaration goes on to recite that the officers have left or are about to leave the state with intent to defraud their creditors; that the association is removing or is about to remove its property or proceeds from premises from the state; that the association has assigned certain property and effects with intent to defraud, and that it has property or rights which it conceals.

POSTAL AND STATE INVESTIGATIONS.

The Altmeyer proceedings were hastened by the investigation that was made during the past week or ten days by Postoffice Inspector Sam Hooten, who spent several days on the case, and left the city last Tuesday to make his report to the postoffice department. Previous to this the postoffice department had issued orders to the Wheeling postmaster to withhold letters and other mail matter from the officers of the concern.

IN ADDITION TO THE POSTOFFICE INVESTIGATION, a representative of Auditor LaFollette, of West Virginia, spent several days in Wheeling in an investigation of the affairs of the World association.

This representative was Mr. Charles Kefauver, of the auditor's office, who left the city and returned to Charleston the latter part of last week. The character of the report he made to the auditor could not be learned last night.

ANOTHER LEGAL PROCEEDING.

In addition to the Altmeyer attachment proceedings, Colonel Robert White, representing Louis Paul and his wife, Laura Paul, beneficiaries of the late Catherine Sadler, who died last May, has entered attachment proceedings, which are in a state of abeyance, representations and promises having been made by the officials of the association. The declaration in this case recites that Catherine Sadler took out a policy for \$500 on her life, which was signed by G. A. Harper, as president, and C. F. Thompson, as secretary; that Catherine Sadler died on May 9, 1897, and that the beneficiaries of the policy, Louis Paul and Laura L. Paul, have since been unable to collect the money, and that the association's officers are about to move its property from the state. Proceeding, the declaration says that the association was chartered under the laws of the state of West Virginia, November 26, 1892, with the following stockholders:

Stockholder. Residence. Shares.
John M. Dobson, Baltimore..... 27
C. F. Thompson, Boston..... 27
C. H. Baker, Boston..... 26
L. J. Batts, Jr., New York..... 10
G. A. Harper, Cleveland..... 10

Total shares..... 100

These shares were of par value \$1,000, making the capital stock of the association \$100,000, of which it was alleged by the officers that \$10,000 was paid in at the time of the organization.

SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS MADE.

Then the declaration recites as follows:

Affiant states now here in this affidavit, under his oath, that the following material facts are relied upon by him to show the existence of the grounds upon which this application for an attachment in this suit is based, to wit: the material facts relied upon by him to show the existence of the first ground herein before named are: That the defendant's charter was issued on the 26th of November, 1892, to expire on the first day of November, 1912; that the following persons were the incorporators: John M. Dobson, of the city of Baltimore, Md., as having subscribed twenty-seven shares of the capital stock of said corporation, Charles F. Thompson, of Boston, in the state of Massachusetts, as having subscribed twenty-seven shares of said stock; Charles H. Baker, of the city of Boston, as having subscribed twenty-six shares; Leonard J. Batts, Jr., of the city of New York, in the state of New York, as having subscribed ten shares thereto; and George A. Harper, of the city of Cleveland, in the state of Ohio, as having subscribed ten shares, in all one hundred shares, total of capital thus subscribed being \$100,000; that the amount claimed to have been actually paid in at the time of the issuance of said charter, was \$10,000, and that the alleged char-

value of the respective shares at the time of the issuance of said charter was one thousand dollars per share. At the time of the issuance of said charter, neither said day has any of the said subscribers to the capital stock of said company ever resided in the state of West Virginia; that by the terms of the said charter the principal office of the said corporation is fixed in the city of Wheeling, in the state of West Virginia; that said George A. Harper is still known as the president of the said corporation, said Charles F. Thompson, as its secretary, and said Charles H. Baker, as its treasurer, neither of whom now reside or have resided in the state of West Virginia; that whilst it is professed by the said officers who are and have been in the active management of the affairs of said company, that the principal office of said company is, in fact, at No. 1126-1128 Market street, in the city of Wheeling, West Virginia, and said place is and has been advertised to the world by the management of said corporation as the place of its principal office, yet, in point of fact, neither of them have actual personal charge of said alleged principal office consists of two rooms in what is known as the Peabody building, on Market street, in the city of Wheeling and is now and has for a long time past been in charge of a lady clerk, and that the persons who are in actual management of the affairs, monies and assets of the said company, resides in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and keep whatever assets of value the said company has under their charge, supervision and control in said city of Philadelphia and not in said city of Wheeling; that at the said so-called principal office there are some furniture and papers of the said company; that none other of its assets are kept in said office or within jurisdiction of the courts of West Virginia; that said clerk is a simple employe with no authority to disburse or manage the business of said company in the settlement of any claims against it; that all the monies which may be collected for said company have been almost invariably removed to said city of Philadelphia and taken under the control and in the custody and management of the said Thompson and said Baker; that now there are in the city of Wheeling a man and two women strangers recently sent to said last named city, and as affiant believes are engaged in gathering and removing material part of the assets and property of the said corporation out of the said state and are about to remove a large amount thereof out of the said state, and that such amount is a material part of the property of said defendant, and that process of execution on a judgment on the said action, when it is obtained, will be unavailing; that when inquiries have been made of the said clerk as to the affairs of the said corporation, she has either declined or neglected to give any satisfactory replies to questions regarding the matters of business in which the inquiries for such information were instituted, and has professed and does profess not to be able to give such information when sought; that inquiries have been made of said Thompson and said Baker, in the city of Philadelphia, by one or more persons having business transactions with the said corporation, and without avail; that the said management of the said corporation have so managed its affairs as that it is impossible in the state of West Virginia for any person having a claim against it to get at its true condition, and that the said defendant is a professed insurance company doing business upon what is known as the assessment plan, and that by reason of deaths it has become indebted to policy holders and has failed to meet promises and payments.

And the said affiant relies upon the foregoing statement of facts as material facts to show also the existence of the second ground aforesaid upon which the application for attachment in this case is based. LOUIS PAUL. (Sworn to August 31, 1897.)

If developments do not warrant action of a summary nature in the meantime, the Altmeyer and Paul attachment cases will come up for hearing at the November term of the circuit court.

SECRETARY BRIGHT TALKS.

An Intelligencer reporter called at the office of the association yesterday afternoon. The office is a front room on the third floor of the Peabody building, neatly furnished with the usual office fittings and a big safe bearing the inscription "W. M. B. A." In the office were a man and a young woman. The man was the secretary of the association, Mr. W. M. Bright, and the young woman was the assistant to the secretary, Miss Annie Elliott. The reporter referred to the Altmeyer attachment proceedings, which had been instituted a few minutes before, and Mr. Bright said he had just been informed of the matter, and expressed surprise that Attorney Robinson had taken the step.

"Mr. Robinson called on me, Saturday and requested payment of the Altmeyer loss," said Mr. Bright. "I told him we could not pay the loss on account of the tying up of our mail, there being several thousand dollars of our assets in the hands of the postoffice authorities, which, however, we expect to get tomorrow. He left, without saying what he intended to do, but I certainly did not expect him to do what you tell me he has done."

Continuing, Mr. Bright told of the manner in which the officers of the association were charged about a month ago. As related in the Paul declaration, Messrs. Thompson, Baker, Dobson, Batts and Harper were the incorporators of the concern, and Messrs. Thompson, Baker and Harper were the principal officers. Under their management an office was maintained on Filbert street, in Philadelphia, as well as one in this city.

AN OFFICE IN PHILADELPHIA.

At Philadelphia, it is understood, the principal officers had their headquarters and most of the business was transacted from that city. About a month ago, however, according to Mr. Bright, the following persons succeeded those named above, who retired from connection with the concern: J. G. Barlett, W. M. Bright and Frank Chatfield. These had been working in the west under the former regime, and had built up practically all the association's business. At the present time, says Mr. Bright, there are about 6,000 policy holders, and the association's income is several thousand dollars a week. Most of the business has been written in Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa and other western states. There are two hundred policy holders in this city.

Secretary Bright claims a perfectly legitimate business is being carried on. The trouble that has arisen is caused, he says, on account of the financial embarrassment that has troubled every assessment insurance association in the country during the recent period of depression in business. Out of over two hundred such associations, only a few have survived, and the World is one of them. He and his brother and Mr. Chatfield had thought of starting an association of their own, but the former stockholders of the World made them an offer to sell which was accepted about a month ago. At that time there were a number of claims in the west overdue, but it was expected that before the first of the coming year the association's state would be cleared of all obligations. Mr. Bright denied that the officers of the concern were contemplating a sudden move from the state with intent to defraud the association's creditors, and said he hoped the attachment proceedings would be settled amicably so that the concern could go ahead in the transaction of its legitimate business. In that way, he said, every claim would be paid before

A LETTER TO WOMEN

From Mrs. James Corrigan.

For seventeen years I have suffered. Periods were so very painful that I would have to go to the doctor every month.

He said that I had an enlargement of the womb, and told my husband that I must undergo an operation, as I had tumors in the womb, and it was a case of life or death.

I was operated upon twice, but it did not seem to do me any good, it made me very weak. I was troubled with the leucorrhoea a great deal.

I also suffered with the sick headache, vomiting, spells, backache all the time, the terrible pain in my left side, chills, loss of appetite, and could not sleep nights. After taking several bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, some Liver Pills, and using your Sanative Wash, I recovered.

I can eat well, and every one that sees me tells me I am a different person. I can do all my own work, sleep well and feel well. I am growing stronger every day, and am able to go out and enjoy a walk and not feel all tired out when I return, as I used to. I doctored for sixteen years, and in all those years I did not feel as well as I do at the present time. I wish that every woman that is troubled as I was, would try that medicine. Oh! it is so good to feel well, and it is all owing to Mrs. Pinkham's kind advice and medicine.

—MRS. JAMES CORRIGAN, 284 Center St., Jamaica Plain, Mass.

the first of the New Year, while in the event of the association being tied up, everybody would lose.

HOW IT SHOWS UP.

FIGURES SHOWING THE CONDITION OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

The condition of the World Mutual Benefit Association, as investigated by an Intelligencer reporter shows that during the past four years, beginning with the year 1893, the assessments and annual dues were \$128,079; for 1894, \$127,627; for 1895, \$175,034, and that of 1896, \$174,744.

The admission fees and other receipts were found to be, for 1893, \$11,586; for 1894, \$10,941; for 1895, \$51,376; and for 1896, \$8,430.

And in the matter of total income for 1893, \$139,665; for 1894, \$138,565; for 1895, \$226,410; and for 1896, \$183,204.

The amount paid out in claims during the four years was \$247,982; or, during the year 1893, \$56,160; for 1894, \$52,706; for 1895, \$76,748; and for 1896, \$62,318.

The amount of money paid to agents and examiners for the four years was \$204,222.

The expenses of management for the four years amounted to \$195,485.

The total disbursements for 1893, was \$119,916; for 1894, \$134,260; for 1895, \$199,477, and for 1896, \$196,006.

Invested and other assets for the four years shows a total of \$149,657.

Liabilities for the four years run up to \$60,706.

The number of certificates in force at the end of each year, were, 1893, 6,321; 1894, 7,230; 1895, 11,460; 1896, 6,446.

Amount written during each year was, 1893, \$6,621,900; 1894, \$12,622,600; 1895, \$8,468,381.

The amount in force at the end of year, was, for 1893, \$18,648,500; 1894, \$16,744,500; 1895, \$18,641,700, and for 1896, \$8,232,284.

The ledger assets of this association was found to be \$14,622. The actual assets at \$18,482; contingent assets, \$19,303; total assets, \$37,785; actual liabilities, \$85; contingent liabilities, \$29,535, and total liabilities, \$29,620.

HAVE RETURNED.

COL. EXLEY AND MAJ. BODLEY BACK FROM THEIR TRIP OVERLAND.

Annually for the past three years, Colonel W. H. Exley and Major John Bodley, have toured a goodly portion of the country overland. Philadelphia has upon each occasion been the objective point, and each year a different route to and from the Quaker City has been selected. Yesterday evening their caravan bore them home again, after their jaunt, extending since July 1.

On that date, Colonel Exley, Major Bodley, Mrs. Bodley and son, Will K. Bodley, left Wheeling, going through Marshall county, thence on to Stanton, Va., where Will Bodley left the party. Colonel Exley is always the driver, and he handled the reins over every foot of ground. Many interesting places were visited, among them being Manassas, Fairfax, C. H., and the Luray caverns in Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland, and Ohio were traversed on the trip. This pleasant form of outing agreed with the travellers, they returning home the pictures of good health. Colonel Exley's description of the sale of a woman at Addison, Webster county, is pathetic in the extreme.

AMUSEMENTS.

THE FAST MAIL.

Lincoln J. Carter's masterpiece, "The Fast Mail," opened a half week's engagement to a large and very appreciative audience at the Grand opera house last night. The many startling situations and exciting climaxes stirred the audience to the highest pitch of enthusiasm. The scenic effects are truly marvelous, particularly the railroad trains and Niagara Falls. They are striking examples of the perfection of stage realism. The cast for "The Fast Mail" was selected from the three companies which were touring the country last season, and it is much superior to that found in the average melodrama. The specialties were very clever. "The Fast Mail" will be produced again, and the engagement will close with matinee and evening performances tomorrow.

"ALWAYS ON TIME."

The sensational melodrama, "Always on Time," will be on the boards at the Grand opera house for three days commencing September 30. This piece deals almost entirely with the west and there is nothing overdrawn in it. The thrilling revolver plays, startling situations with which the piece abounds are not exaggerated in any particular, but are given with a truthful realism that is refreshing. It is a story wherein love, hate and passion blend.

SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION, at Marsden L. Colvin's millinery opening, Wednesday and Thursday, September 29 and 30.

That *Lemon Balm* can be cured with Dr. Miles' NERVE TONIC. Only 25c.

Not a cheap photograph, but the BEST CARBONETTE made.

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DEATH OF CHARLES P. WHITNEY.

MR. WHITNEY WAS FORMERLY C. & P. FREIGHT AGENT IN WHEELING.

The following from the Lyons (N. Y.) Republican of September 3, tells of the death of a gentleman who formerly resided here and was held in high esteem.

Charles P. Whitney, well known to many of the older residents of this place, died in West Haven, Conn., Saturday, August 25, his mortal remains being brought here for burial in the family plot in the South cemetery. Brief services had been held at his home in West Haven. The body was received by the family of his sister, Mrs. Ira I. Whitney, and surviving friends of his youth, and rested in Grace church over night. The burial service was read on Tuesday at 10:30 a. m. by the Rev. Dr. VanDyke, of Newark, with the kind assistance of the vested ladies' choir. The committal at the cemetery followed.

Mr. Whitney was born at the old Perrine farm house, September 24, 1833, of Ephraim J. and Susan J. (Perrine) Whitney. Beginning life as a painter and spending a year or two in Newark and Palmyra, he removed in 1853 to Cleveland, O. In 1856 he there married Mary L., daughter of Silas L. and Mary Mansfield Bingham, by whom he had two children, Rev. Hobart B. Whitney, for some time rector of St. John's church, Clyde, and Grace M. Whitney, wife of Rev. Edward H. Cleveland, rector of Christ church, Ridgewood, New Jersey. In 1865 he removed to Wheeling, West Virginia, remaining as agent of the Cleveland & Pittsburgh railroad until 1878, when he changed his residence to New York City. After the death of his wife, in 1888, he lived with his son in West Haven, Conn., until his marriage to a second wife, Josephine Ward, who survives him with their little son, Reginald.

While still in his youth, Mr. Whitney, through reading and investigation, became a devout and enthusiastic member of the Episcopal church. An intellectual man of positive views, he left a considerable volume of characteristic papers, etc., on religious and economic subjects.

For many years "longing to depart and be with Christ," he welcomed his departure with full assurance of faith, and faded away without pain, in the comfort of a reasonable, religious and holy hope.

"Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep!"

HIGH SCHOOL CONTRACT COMPLETED.

Yesterday morning the contract for the repairs to the Maxwell building were completed, transforming it into the high school. The school was to open October 1, but the desks have not yet arrived, and owing to this delay, it is not definitely known when school will begin. The completion of the contract a day ahead of the stipulated time was quite a surprise, and the manner in which Contractor Newton Wilson shovled the carpenter work reflected great credit upon him. The interior of the building presents a neat and attractive appearance.

YOU are cordially invited to Marsden L. Colvin's millinery opening, Wednesday and Thursday, September 29 and 30.

THE RIVER.

YESTERDAY'S DEPARTURES.

Clarington....FAIR PLAY, 2:30 p. m.

BOATS LEAVING TO-DAY.

Sistersville....GUYANOTTE, 11 a. m.

Clarington....FAIR PLAY, 2:30 p. m.

BOATS LEAVING TO-MORROW.

Clarington....FAIR PLAY, 2:30 p. m.

RIVER TELEGRAMS.

OIL CITY—River 4 inches and falling. Clear and cool.

BROWNSVILLE—River 5 feet 2 inches and rising.

WARREN—River at low water mark. Clear and cool.

GREENSBORO—River 6 feet and stationary. Weather fair and pleasant.

The Adam Jacobs and Hudson due down on Tuesday; James G. Blaine and Florence Belle up.

MORGANTOWN—River 6 feet 7 inches. Weather clear and cool.

PITTSBURGH—River 2.7 feet and stationary. Clear and cool.

STEUBENVILLE—River 2 feet 2 inches and rising. Clear and cool.

PARKERSBURG—The Ohio river is 1 foot 3 inches and falling. Weather cloudy; mercury at 59. No boats. Little Kanawha is falling.

A Cure for Bilious Colic.

RESOURCE, Screvens Co., Ga.—I have been subject to attacks of bilious colic for several years. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy is the only sure relief. It acts like a charm. One dose of it gives relief when all other remedies fail.—G. D. SHARP. For sale by druggists.

FACE HUMORS.

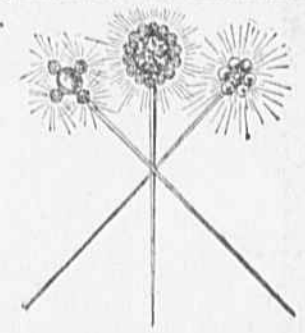
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